

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please re-write the claims to read as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing an input/output operation to a storage  
2 device from a computer, the storage device having one or more data paths to the com-  
3 puter, the method comprising the steps of:  
4       selecting a first data path from a set of data paths to the storage device;  
5       attempting the input/output operation using the selected first data path;  
6       selecting, in response to an error in the input/output operation using the first data  
7 path, a next data path from the ~~linked list~~ set of data paths; and  
8       attempting the input/output operation using the selected next data path.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of data paths is dynamically gener-  
2 ated in response to storage device events.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the storage device event further comprises a  
2 Fibre Channel loop initialization event.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first data path further comprises a last  
2 used data path associated with the storage device.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the storage device further comprises a disk  
2 drive.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the disk drive is operatively interconnected  
2 with the computer by a Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computer further comprises a file  
2 server.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of data paths are described by a re-  
2 lated set of data structures.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data paths utilize a Fibre Channel con-  
2 nection.

1 10. (Original) A method for maintaining a set of data paths accessible by a set of upper  
2 level services of a storage operating system of a computer, the method comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 creating a device instance associated with a storage device;  
5 creating a first path instance associated with a first path to the storage device;  
6 creating, in response to events identifying an addition of a path, an additional path  
7 instance associated with an additional path to the storage device; and  
8 deleting, in response to events identifying a removal of a path, a path instance as-  
9 sociated with the removed path.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of creating a device instance oc-  
2 curs in response to receipt of an event identifying an addition of a storage device.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the events identifying an addition of a  
2 path is a Fibre Channel loop initialization event.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the events identifying removal of a path is  
2 a Fibre Channel loop initialization event.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of creating an additional path in-  
2 stance further comprises the step of linking the additional path instance to a linked list of  
3 path instances associated with the storage device.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the device instance and path instances are  
2 accessible via an application program interface.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the set of upper level services further  
2 comprises a redundant array of inexpensive disks layer of the storage operating system.

1 17. (Original) A computer for use with a plurality of storage devices having one or more  
2 data paths associated with the storage devices, the computer comprising:

3 means for detecting changes to the data paths associated with the storage devices;

4 means for maintaining a set of path instances associated with each of the plurality  
5 of storage devices, the data path instances accessible to a set of upper level services;

6 means for performing input/output operations to the plurality of storage devices  
7 using a first data path;

8 means for selecting alternate data paths, in response to an error occurring with the  
9 first data path; and

10 means for performing input/output operations to the plurality of storage devices  
11 using the selected alternate data paths.

1 18. (Original) The computer of claim 17 wherein the upper level services access the data  
2 path instances via an application program interface.

- 1 19. (Original) A storage operating system executing on a computer, the storage operating  
2 system comprising:
- 3 a routing administration layer, the routing administration layer dynamically updat-  
4 ing a set of device instances, each device instance associated with a storage device;  
5 wherein each device instance includes at least one path instance, each path in-  
6 stance identifying a path from the computer to the associated storage device; and  
7 a set of upper level services, the upper level services capable of accessing the de-  
8 vice instances.
- 1 20. (Original) The storage operating system of claim 19 wherein the routing administra-  
2 tion layer further comprises an application program interface, the application program  
3 interface providing the upper level services access to the set of device instances.
- 1 21. (Original) The storage operating system of claim 19 wherein the upper level services  
2 further comprises a redundant array of independent disks layer of the storage operating  
3 system.
- 1 22. (Original) A computer-readable medium, including program instructions executing  
2 on a computer, for performing an input/output operation to a storage device having one or  
3 more data paths to the computer, the program instructions including steps for:
- 4 selecting a first data path from a linked list of data paths to the storage device;  
5 attempting the input/output operation using the selected first data path;  
6 selecting, in response to an error in the input/output operation using the first data  
7 path, a next data path from the linked list of data paths; and  
8 attempting the input/output operation using the selected next data path.
- 1 23. (Original) A computer-readable medium, including program instructions executing  
2 on a computer, for maintaining a set of data paths accessible by a set of upper level ser-  
3 vices of a storage operating system, the program instructions including steps for:

4           creating a device instance associated with a storage device;  
5           creating a first path instance associated with a first path to the storage device;  
6           creating, in response to events identifying an addition of a path, an additional path  
7 instance associated with additional path to the storage device; and  
8 deleting, in response to events identifying a removal of a path, a path instance associated  
9 with the removed path.

Please add new claim 24 et seq. as follows:

1   24. (New) Electromagnetic signals propagating on a computer network, comprising:  
2           said electromagnetic signals carrying instructions for execution on a processor for  
3 the practice of a method for performing an input/output operation to a storage device  
4 from a computer, the storage device having one or more data paths to the computer, the  
5 method having the steps,  
6           selecting a first data path from a set of data paths to the storage device;  
7           attempting the input/output operation using the selected first data path;  
8           selecting, in response to an error in the input/output operation using the first data  
9 path, a next data path from the set of data paths; and  
10          attempting the input/output operation using the selected next data path.